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TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 121525

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

THE HAGUE FOR CROOK

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: IR US NL PREL

SUBJECT: LATEST RAFSANJANI STATEMENTS

¶11. WE ARE NOW AWARE OF AT LEAST TWO RAFSANJANI STATEMENTS, ASSERTING LINKAGE BETWEEN THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON AND THE DISPOSITION OF IRANIAN ASSETS, THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS SINCE THE APRIL 3 U.S. LETTER TO BOCKSTIEGEL: THE INTERVIEW BY A CORRESPONDENT FROM KEVAN HAVA'I; AND THE RAFSANJANI PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED BY IRNA ON APRIL 20. AS NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, THE LATTER PRESS CONFERENCE IS PROBABLY THE SOURCE FOR THE ARTICLES IN THE WASHINGTON POST AND THE HERALD-TRIBUNE. (YOU SHOULD ALREADY HAVE RECEIVED THESE STATEMENTS BY DATAFAX.)

¶12. THIS PERSISTENT REPETITION BY RAFSANJANI OF THE HOSTAGE THEME MAKES IT NECESSARY FOR US AGAIN TO PUT ON RECORD WITH THE TRIBUNAL THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF SUCH STATEMENTS, AND THE NECESSITY FOR THE TRIBUNAL TO ADDRESS THE HOSTAGE ISSUE ADEQUATELY IN ITS FINAL ORDER. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TO THE TRIBUNAL, IN WHATEVER WRITTEN FORM YOU JUDGE MOST APPROPRIATE.

¶13. BEGIN TEXT. THE UNITED STATES REGRETS THAT IT IS AGAIN NECESSARY TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE TRIBUNAL TO FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS ISSUED BY A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH CLEARLY SUGGEST THAT IRAN WILL WITHHOLD ITS ASSISTANCE IN SECURING THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON UNTIL THE RELEASE TO IRAN OF ASSETS WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF VARIOUS TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS. THESE STATEMENTS (COPIES ATTACHED) WERE MADE BY MAJLIS SPEAKER RAFSANJANI AND APPEARED IN THE PRESS DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, MAKING A TOTAL OF AT LEAST THREE SUCH STATEMENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE LATEST ASSURANCES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN THAT NO SUCH LINKAGE TO THE ILLEGAL DETENTION OF HOSTAGES EXISTS.

THE REPEATED REITERATION OF SUCH STATEMENTS BY HIGH-LEVEL IRANIAN OFFICIALS POINTS EVEN MORE STRONGLY TO THE CLEAR NEED FOR THE GRANTING OF THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THIS REGARD BY THE UNITED STATES IN ITS SUBMISSION OF 19 MARCH. SUCH LINKAGE IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED STATES AND, WE BELIEVE, IS AN AFFRONT TO THE TRIBUNAL AS WELL. END TEXT.

SHULTZ